



NOAA FY 2000 Budget Request Fact Sheet

YEAR OF THE OCEAN INITIATIVE



Aquaculture

NOAA is requesting a \$4.6 million increase in FY 2000 to launch new projects to promote the development of an environmentally friendly and commercially viable domestic aquaculture industry. The increase will also support research on the effects of aquaculture on the marine environment to ensure its continued responsible development. NOAA's Aquaculture request complements the other Year of the Ocean initiatives seeking to explore, protect and restore America's vital ocean resources.

Why Aquaculture is so Important

Over the last 20 years, production and landings of many fisheries have declined precipitously. As international and domestic fishery landings are declining, demand for fishery products is increasing. Without some positive action the ultimate result will be (1) further imbalance in trade deficits, (2) a loss in economic opportunities for commercial harvesters and processors, (3) a decline in the traditional lifestyles that



are central to many U.S. fisheries, and (4) declines in the abundance of target species that lead to shifts in species dominance. Such changes in community structure have largely unknown ecological impacts, but experience suggests they are not only significant but are also negative. An integrated mariculture/stock enhancement program using improved marine aquaculture technology is a promising alternative for meeting the shortfalls in seafood production. By learning how to raise certain marine species, we can increase production of those species without increasing fishing pressure, improve their market availability, and increase stocks through the release of hatchery-raised individuals in certain situations. In the NOAA strategic plan for Build Sustainable Fisheries aquaculture production and technologies will be combined with wild stock and habitat management to assist coastal communities to optimize value from coastal resources.

Responding to the Problem

NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) request of \$3.6 million will be used to develop aquaculture technology in cooperation with other agencies within NOAA and other partners. A focus will be placed on a peer-reviewed competition to fund projects that will lead to environmentally friendly commercial opportunities. NMFS will direct much of its \$1 million toward developing aquaculture standards that protect the environment, ecologically-sound farming technologies, and site selection criteria to assist those who plan to invest in aquaculture within federal waters. These funds will further the administration's ocean stewardship mission by protecting the environment while developing sustainable aquaculture.

NOAA Budget	FY 2000 Change \$M
National Ocean Service (OR&F)	
Navigation Services (Ports for the 21st Century)	\$5.2
Ocean Resources Conservation & Assessment (Exploring the Last Frontier) (Coral Reef Protection)	\$1.0 \$2.0
National Marine Fisheries Service (OR&F)	
Conservation and Management Operations (Magnuson-Stevens Act) (Observers)	\$2.6 \$2.0
Information Collection and Analysis (Fisheries Oceanography)	\$1.6
(Aquaculture)	\$1.0
Oceanic & Atmospheric Research (OR&F)	
Climate and Air Quality Research (Ocean Climate Variability)	\$4.0
Oceans and Great Lakes (Aquaculture)	\$3.6
(Fisheries Oceanography)	\$0.4
(Ocean Observatories)	\$3.1
Procurement, Acquisition, & Construction Account	
(Fisheries Research Vessels)	\$51.6
NOAA Year of the Ocean Initiative -- Total	\$78.1



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Benefits

By the year 2025, the Department of Commerce hopes to achieve the following results: increasing annual aquaculture production from the present \$900 million to \$5 billion and helping to offset the \$6 billion trade deficit in seafood; increasing jobs in the aquaculture sector from 180,000 to 600,000 and improving wildstock harvests and recreational opportunities through aquaculture by \$500 million. In short, the development of appropriate maricultural technologies will increase seafood availability, help depleted stocks recover, preserve natural populations of commercial species, provide new jobs and stimulate the economy.

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